

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2008**

2008 OCT -6 AM 9: 23

Chairman Michael F. DeSimone called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mr. Stephen A. Nelson, Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr. (8:00 p.m. arrival), and Mr. John L. Vanella. Superintendent Eric Conti, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson also in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand absent.

TOWN CLERK  
BURLINGTON, MA

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve minutes of 6/24/08; motion carried 4-0-0.  
Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 7/22/08; motion carried 3-0-1 Mr. Nelson abstained.

**Introduction of Fox Hill Principal**

Dr. Conti introduced new Fox Hill Principal Ellen Johnson. The School Committee welcomed Ms. Johnson.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**INFORMATION/REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Conti reported on a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to review items on the 10-year plan. The town is looking at the schools and town needs for the next 10 - 20 years and how to fund these projects.

**Francis Wyman Playground Renovation Update**

By consensus, this item was taken out of order. Playground Committee members Mary Sweeney and Barbara L'Hereux reviewed costs and layout for the renovation and funds received to date. The State approved \$51,000, town meeting approved \$51,000, and the PTO raised \$52,000 from corporate and private donations for a total of \$154,000. Mr. Robinson reported that a site visit with contractors will be held next week and bids are due in early September. Principal Astone stated that the front playground will be used while the renovation occurs in the fall. Francis Wyman Playground Committee members stated that they'd return any excess funds to the town but they don't know what it will cost yet and construction costs have risen since the project was conceived.

**Superintendent's Report  
New Staff**

Dr. Conti stated that most hiring has been completed and that the Committee received a new teacher appointment list in their packet.

**Student Enrollment Update**

Dr. Conti distributed to the Committee a current elementary student enrollment chart and reviewed class sizes. Class sizes at the middle and high school are in the middle 20's.

**Entry Plan/Administrative Advance Update**

The Superintendent reviewed an entry plan that was presented at a two-day administrative council meeting

and included student instruction, expectations and outcomes, technology, and communication in the schools.

**Business/Finance  
Memorial School Update**

Mr. Robinson reported on a meeting held for Superintendents with Katherine Craven of the School Building Authority. The SBA has approved the project manager for Memorial and he hopes to meet with the SBA in September regarding the feasibility study and architect selection. The Superintendent stated that the process is slow and methodical with the SBA updating processes. School Committee members expressed frustration with the slow pace of project approval.

**Summer Projects Summary**

Mr. Robinson stated that the Marshall Simonds bathroom renovation will be completed by Friday. Pine Glen has a new computer lab, the gutters have been replaced, and a new floor in the lobby area. Fox Hill has replaced rugs in the library and office.

Mr. Robinson announced that office personnel had ratified a new three-year agreement with increases of 3/3/2 and requested that the School Committee approve the agreement. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to ratify the tentative agreement with the School Office Personnel AFSCME, Local 1703 as submitted; motion carried 5-0-0. It's anticipated that the custodial and instructional assistant agreements will be on the September 9 meeting agenda for ratification.

**Subcommittee Reports**

None.

**Ways & Means**

No one in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BCSF Telethon Sign  
Approval**

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve the hanging of signs by the Burlington Community Scholarship Fund at Memorial and the high school; motion carried 5-0-0.

**School Committee Meeting  
Schedule**

A School Committee meeting schedule for the 2008-09 school year was presented.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman DeSimone announced that the Committee had a need for executive session and would only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 9:45 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes, discuss contract negotiations, and litigation. Motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

August 19, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy at  
10:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 9/9/08

Date approved: 9/9/08

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**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 19, 2008**

**Agenda**

2008 AUG 15 AM 11:04

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B of the General Laws, that a meeting of the Burlington School Committee will be held on Tuesday, August 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

TOWN CLERK  
BURLINGTON, MA

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 7:30 p.m.
2. Introduction of Fox Hill Principal Ellen Johnson
3. Approval of Minutes of 6/24/08 and 7/22/08
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
  - a) Superintendent's Report
    - i) New Staff
    - ii) Student Enrollment Update
    - iii) Entry Plan/Administrative Advance Update
  - b) Curriculum/Instruction
  - c) Business/Finance
    - i) Francis Wyman Playground Renovation Update
    - ii) Memorial School Update
    - iii) Summer Projects Summary
  - d) Subcommittee Reports
  - e) Ways/Means
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - a) BCSF Telethon Sign Approval
  - b) School Committee Meeting Schedule 2008-09
8. Public Participation
9. Executive Session
  - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 7/22/08
  - b) Contract Negotiations
  - c) Litigation
10. Adjournment